

## Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA

## § 1466.4

person, and does not include a legal entity.

*Priority resource concern(s)* means a resource concern that is identified by the State Conservationist, in consultation with the State Technical Committee, as a priority for a State, geographic area, or watershed level.

*Producer* means a person, legal entity, or joint operation who has an interest in the agricultural operation, according to part 1400 of this chapter, or who is engaged in agricultural production or forestry management.

*Regional Assistant Chief* means the NRCS employee authorized to direct and supervise NRCS activities in an NRCS region.

*Resource Concern* means a specific natural resource problem that represents a significant concern in a State or region, and is likely to be addressed successfully through the implementation of the conservation activities by producers.

*Secretary* means the Secretary of the USDA.

*Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher* means a farmer or rancher who has been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudices because of their identity as a member of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

*State Conservationist* means the NRCS employee authorized to implement EQIP and direct and supervise NRCS activities in a State, the Caribbean Area, or the Pacific Island Area.

*State Technical Committee* means a committee established by the Secretary in a State pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 3861.

*Structural practice* means a conservation practice, including a vegetative practice, that involves establishing, constructing, or installing a site-specific measure to conserve and protect a resource from degradation, or improve soil, water, air, or related natural resources in the most cost-effective manner. Examples include, but are not limited to, animal waste management facilities, terraces, grassed waterways, tailwater pits, livestock water developments, contour grass strips, filterstrips, critical area plantings, tree plantings, establishment or improvement of wildlife habitat, and capping of abandoned wells.

*Technical assistance* means technical expertise, information, and tools necessary for the conservation of natural resources on land active in agricultural, forestry, or related uses. The term includes the following:

(1) Technical services provided directly to farmers, ranchers, and other eligible entities, such as conservation planning, technical consultation, and assistance with design and implementation of conservation practices; and

(2) Technical infrastructure, including activities, processes, tools, and agency functions needed to support delivery of technical services, such as technical standards, resource inventories, training, data, technology, monitoring, and effects analyses.

*Technical Service Provider (TSP)* means an individual, private-sector entity, or public agency certified by NRCS to provide technical services to program participants, in lieu of or on behalf of NRCS.

*Wildlife* means non-domesticated birds, fishes, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and mammals.

### § 1466.4 National priorities.

(a) The following national priorities, consistent with statutory resource concerns that include soil, water, wildlife, air quality, and related resource concerns, will be used in EQIP implementation:

(1) Reductions of nonpoint source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, or excess salinity in impaired watersheds consistent with total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) where available; the reduction of surface and groundwater contamination; and the reduction of contamination from agricultural point sources, such as concentrated animal feeding operations;

(2) Conservation of ground and surface water resources;

(3) Reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards;

(4) Reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land; and